

Serial No. 09/917,428

Docket No. 10008368-1

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 12 have been amended.¹ Claims 4, 7-11 and 13-17 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12 and 18-25 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action indicated that claims 18-25 have been allowed and that claims 11 and 12 have been objected to.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview conducted with the undersigned representative on February 28, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 1, as submitted that in the amendment dated January 26, 2005, did in fact include all of the limitations of prior claim 11, including the intervening claims. The Examiner also indicated that additional amendments would be required in order to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. The version of claim 1 presented above includes such amendments. With respect to the arguments presented in the Advisory Action, applicant's undersigned representative indicated during the interview that applicant respectfully traverses the remarks in the last two sentences of the "Continuation of 11" section, especially those concerning the "criticality" of certain aspects of the illustrated embodiments.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Advisory Action indicated that claims 1-3, 5-10 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0138685 to Jankowski ("the Jankowski publication"). Applicant respectfully

¹ Applicant respectfully submits that such amendments do not raise new issues and should be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) and MPEP 714.12 and 714.13.

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submits that the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to claims 1-3, 5 and 6 and the cancellation of claims 7-10 and 14-17. Applicant notes that the amendments/cancellations are not an acquiescence to the rejection and, instead, have been made for the sole purpose of expediting the issuance of the allowed claims. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue patent protection for the inventions defined by the rejected claims prior to the amendments/cancellations above in a continuation application.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

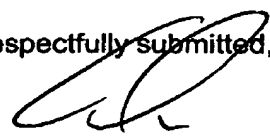
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

2/23/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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